

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a Special Meeting Held on March 27, 2006**

On March 27, 2006, a special meeting of the RTM Public Works Committee was held with seven out of twelve members present. Present were:

David Bayne (Chairman)	Thomas Moore
Mark Dailey (Vice-Chairman)	John Price, and
L.J. Galvin	Brian Rayhill.
Frank Kemp	

Absent were Charles Andrew, Elsie Berl, John DeVita, Stephen Johnson and Bruce Rae.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 p.m. and Chairman David Bayne volunteered and was unanimously elected to serve as Clerk for the meeting.

A discussion was then held about whether the proposed committee statement prepared by the Chairman concerning the dump fee increases under consideration by the Board of Selectmen should be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their public hearing on the issue scheduled for April 3, 2006. The Statement was prepared based on the discussions of the Committee at its March 20 meeting and was circulated to the Committee prior to the March 27 special meeting. A vote was then taken about whether the statement should be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their April 3, 2006 public hearing, and it was unanimously agreed by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0) that the statement should be so presented by the Chairman. The statement as approved by the Committee is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Bayne  
Chairman & Temporary Clerk  
RTM Public Works Committee

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**Statement to the Board of Selectmen at their 4/3/06 Public Hearing**

The RTM Public Works Committee met on January 23 and March 20, 2006 to discuss the proposed fee increases at the dump and the implementation of a two tiered permit system for residential use of the town dump. The Committee approved the following statement at its special meeting held on March 27, 2006 to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their Public Hearing tonight concerning the proposed fee increases. The Committee has serious reservations about the current proposal and wishes to communicate its concerns to the Board of Selectmen before this proposal moves much further in the process.

Our Committee is troubled by the fact that the proposed system of “basic” versus “enhanced” residential dump permits does not appear to address the fundamental issue of the abuse of residential permits at the dump by commercial users and it imposes an unfair burden on certain users based solely on the type of vehicle they bring to the dump without regard to their actual usage. The Committee is concerned that the proposal to require all owners of non-commercial pick-up trucks and trailers of any kind to purchase “enhanced” usage permits for an annual cost of \$200 sets a precedent for establishing user fees in Darien based on criteria other than either a uniform rate for all users of a town service or based upon actual use of the service by the resident or user.

It is the Committee’s understanding that the primary concern of the Public Works Department and the Board of Selectmen is that commercial users are improperly using annual and temporary residential dump stickers to deposit demolition debris and landscaping waste at the dump, and that the cost to the town of disposing of this waste far exceeds the revenue generated by residential dump fees. It is the consensus of the Committee, however, that this proposed new system of requiring enhanced permits for all pick-up trucks and trailers without regard to actual usage will neither deter these abuses nor cover the cost of disposing of this waste. Indeed, the Committee is concerned that commercial users will simply see the additional \$100 fee as part of the cost of doing business and will continue with their past practices. The Committee is also concerned that normal residential users, particularly those that live in private associations who do not receive town services

such as the annual leaf or Christmas tree pickups and who also happen to own pickup trucks or use small trailers, are being arbitrarily singled out and subjected to what amounts to a tax increase based on their choice of vehicle.

The Public Works Committee recognizes that there is a problem at the dump and that there are no easy solutions to it. We are concerned, however, that this proposal will not stop the abuse and will not generate sufficient revenue to pay for the abuse. We are also concerned that it sets a bad precedent of creating differentials in user fees which are not based on actual use. It is the sense of the RTM Public Works Committee that a fairer way to handle the need for additional revenue to cover the costs of the dump and to curb the abuses of some users would be to impose a moderate fee increase on all users coupled with tough new ordinances and/or regulations clarifying what residents may be bring to the dump and imposing fines on abusers and/or converting known abusers to commercial permits if fines prove ineffective. Our Committee looks forward to the Board of Selectmen and Public Works Department proposing new ordinances and/or regulations in the near future aimed at stopping such abuses regardless of what is done with this proposed fee structure. Finally, the Committee believes that the proposal in this year's budget to move to scale house to a location that will provide better monitoring of persons entering the dump and enforcement of the rules of use of the dump is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns with your Board.

David F. Bayne  
Chairman, RTM Public Works Committee  
On behalf of the RTM Pubic Works Committee